



Security Council

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Letter dated 16 April 2003 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 16 April 2003, from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. Annan



Annex**Letter dated 16 April 2003 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) addressed to the Secretary-General**

Following on from our 14 April discussion on the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), I am writing with regard to the North Atlantic Council's decision today to continue and enhance NATO support to ISAF as established under Security Council resolution 1386 (2001) and extended under resolutions 1413 (2002) and 1444 (2002).

NATO is already providing support to ISAF III, led by Germany and the Netherlands. Today, at the request of several allies who are leading ISAF troop contributors, the North Atlantic Council of NATO took the formal decision to enhance significantly its support to ISAF, beginning in August 2003. These contributing nations have determined through their experiences in Afghanistan that there is a need for more continuity in the planning and command structure of ISAF. As NATO already plays a significant role in support of the existing ISAF force, and as 14 NATO nations already contribute approximately 95 per cent of the ISAF troops, this enhanced support is a logical continuation of NATO efforts to date.

NATO has agreed that this additional support will consist of the following:

- An in-theatre deployed composite headquarters, including the required communications and logistics support
- A force commander from a troop-contributing allied nation
- Strategic coordination, command and control exercised by the supreme headquarters of the allied powers in Europe (SHAPE), with an ISAF operations coordination cell to involve participating nations
- The political direction and coordination responsibilities currently undertaken by ISAF lead nations, which will be undertaken by the North Atlantic Council in close consultation with non-NATO contributors to ISAF. If deemed necessary, ad hoc joint meetings of the North Atlantic Council plus contributors will be convened.

Increased involvement by NATO will be within the context of the United Nations mandate of ISAF, and we will operate according to current and future Security Council resolutions. ISAF will therefore continue to operate distinct from Operation Enduring Freedom. Formal reporting requirements to the Security Council will be met in accordance with the relevant resolutions. We will work in close consultation with the Afghan Interim Authority in the implementation of the force mandate, as well as with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

I am in parallel writing to President Karzai regarding these decisions, and all non-NATO troop-contributing nations are being informed. I look forward to staying in close contact with you on this matter and will, of course, keep you abreast of additional decisions and steps by NATO.

(Signed) George Robertson